



NEWS RELEASE

NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NEMA) – 1300 MILITARY ROAD – LINCOLN, NE 68508-1090

Joint Information Center (JIC)

Flood Hotline: (855) 211-2453 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays

July 15, 2011, 1 p.m. CDT

CONTACT: (402) 471-2478 jodie.fawl@nebraska.gov

Nebraska JIC Daily Update

NEMA Continues to Monitor Flooding Situations

The State Emergency Operation Center (SEOC) at Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) remains activated in response to ongoing flooding issues across the state.

NEMA duty officers will monitor and respond to any issues from the SEOC until 8 p.m. tonight (Friday). The duty officer and backup duty officer will then return to normal monitoring and response procedures for weekend, evening and overnight hours until further notice. Normal procedures are for NEMA duty officers to remain on-call from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. unless severe weather or other disaster situations warrant opening the SEOC.

Other changes include operating hours for the **NEMA Flood Hotline**. Due to reduced calls, the hotline is closing on weekends and beginning Monday, July 18, hours will be reduced from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Only one phone line, **(855) 211-2453**, will be answered after today (Friday).

Questions about flooding can be also submitted online at:

<http://www.nema.ne.gov/administration/contact.html> and flood and storm damage reports can be submitted at: <http://www.nema.ne.gov/newsroom/home-damage-contact.html>.

UPDATED National Guard

There are 115 Nebraska National Guard Soldiers and Airmen providing direct support of the flooding emergency. The Nebraska National Guard is conducting 24-hour levee monitoring missions in support of local and county emergency management officials in South Sioux City, Omaha, the Papio-Missouri River NRD and in Nemaha County. The National Guard is assisting Cass County officials in levee monitoring, logistical support and the protection of critical infrastructure, and is conducting aerial monitoring of Missouri River levees. Other Soldiers are on alert in Lincoln to conduct aerial sandbagging operations in the event that it's needed.

No Changes Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) Recommended alternate routes:

To and from Kansas: use **Highway 77** out of Lincoln and **Highway 81** out of York.

Across Nebraska: I-80 is expected to remain safe and dry route throughout the flooding months.

Strongly suggested route: If you are west of York on I-80 and intend to travel north on I-29 at Council Bluffs, consider taking **Highway 81** north at York to I-90 in South Dakota thus avoiding detour traffic in Iowa.

Avoid Highway 75 because of existing construction projects, lane closures and flood mitigation operations.

Avoid Highway 77 north of Lincoln because of delays due to bridge construction near Fremont.

No Changes Road Closures Call 511 or check online at www.roads.ne.gov/flood/ or www.511.nebraska.gov before traveling.

Highway 2 is closed from Nebraska City east into Iowa due to water covering the road on the Iowa side.

Highway 12 is closed east of Niobrara from the east edge of Niobrara to the Santee Spur. A west section of **Highway 12** is also closed from Verdel to approximately three miles west of Niobrara.

Highway 14/37 is closed from the junction with **Highway 12** to the Nebraska-South Dakota border (Standing Bear Bridge). **Highway 14** is open going south from the junction of **Highway 12**.

Highway 175 at the Decatur Missouri River Crossing to Iowa is closed due to erosion of the bridge embankment on the Iowa side. Officials will evaluate the erosion and determine if mitigation work can be done to enable the bridge to reopen.

Highway 136 is closed from Brownville east into Missouri due to water topping a levee on the Missouri side.

Highway 159 is closed from Rulo as it runs east into Missouri. Closure is due to levee break on the Missouri side of Big Lake which resulted in water over the road on the Missouri side.

I-680 into Iowa is closed due to I-680 in Iowa being covered by flood waters.

UPDATED River Levels — National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service as of today:

Platte River

Henry – 4.88 feet, flood stage is 5.5 feet

Mitchell – 6.21 feet, flood stage is 7.5 feet

Minatare – 5.26 feet, flood stage is 7.5 feet

Bridgeport – 6.99 feet, flood stage is 9.5 feet

Lisco – 3.19 feet, flood stage is 4 feet

Lewellen – 7.64 feet, flood stage is 7.5 feet

North Platte – 6.63 feet, flood stage is 6 feet

Brady – 4.01 feet, flood stage is 7.5 feet

Cozad – 5.22 feet, flood stage is 6.5 feet

Overton – 5.51 feet, flood stage is 7 feet

Kearney – 5.08 feet, flood stage is 6 feet

Grand Island – 5.22 feet, flood stage is 6.5 feet

Duncan – 5.47 feet, flood stage is 8 feet

North Bend – 5.69 feet, flood stage is 8 feet

Leshara – 5.62 feet, flood stage is 8 feet

Ashland – 17.05 feet, flood stage is 20 feet

Louisville – 5.29 feet, flood stage is 9 feet

Missouri River

Verdel – 28.9 feet, flood stage is 24 feet

Niobrara – 26.55 feet, flood stage is 21 feet,

South Sioux City – 34.44 feet, flood stage is 30 feet

Decatur – 39.82 feet, flood stage is 35 feet

Blair – 31.49 feet, flood stage is 26.5 feet

Omaha – 34.74 feet, flood stage is 29 feet

Plattsmouth – 34.5 feet, flood stage is 26 feet

Nebraska City – 24.35 feet, flood stage is 18 feet

Brownville – 38.92 feet, flood stage is 33 feet

Rulo – 24.58 feet, flood stage is 17 feet



[List of County Emergency Managers](#)

[List of Nebraska Local Health Departments](#)

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